

Mary Lou Terrien

From: Cheryl C. Farmer <mayorsis@provide.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:56 AM
To: Mary Lou Terrien
Subject: Historic Districts

Dear Ms. Terrien,

Please share the letter below with the members of your House Committee on Local Government.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
C. Farmer MD

Dear Members of the House Committee on Local Government,

When you travel to other countries, do you visit the newest subdivisions, or the oldest and most historic sites? Please abandon the legislation now under consideration that would destroy our ability to preserve Historic Districts and the architectural treasures they contain. This legislation would not serve those of us who live in these Districts, nor our communities nor our State.

There are many beautiful vintage homes in Ypsilanti available for purchase. But when I purchased my home in 1988, I chose one in the Historic District precisely because I thought the presence of the District would help to protect my investment. It has. However, the legislation now being proposed as SB 720 and HB 5232 would destroy that protection.

Built in 1855 on North Huron Street in Downtown Ypsilanti, my home is classic Italianate. There are so many well preserved historic homes in so many different styles - just on North and South Huron Streets alone - that the Henry Ford Museum sells tickets and brings people to Ypsilanti on buses to visit my neighborhood. Students from the Eastern Michigan University Historic Preservation Program can be seen on walking tours with their professors, studying the amazing examples of Italianate, Greek Revival, Tudor, French Second Empire, Federal and other architectural types that we have concentrated in our Historic Districts.

I believe I am the steward of this stunning home, not just its owner. I am not the only homeowner in the Historic District who feels this way. We are holding these amazing homes in trust for the next generations to enjoy, just as previous generations have held them in trust for us. As an elected representative of the people of Michigan, we need you to make it easier, not harder, to preserve Michigan's incredible architectural diversity for the future.

Thank you.

Sincerely
C. Farmer MD